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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre

Tenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre (A/62/358). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. The report of the Secretary-General provides updated information on the status of the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre and on the progress made since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/61/166).

3. In paragraph 3 of the report (A/62/358), information is provided on the status of implementation of the project. Completion of construction is now expected by the end of 2007, with the installation of technical equipment being completed by mid-2008, and it is envisaged that the four organizations based at the Vienna International Centre (the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the United Nations Office at Vienna) will begin to move into the new M building in September and October 2008, with full occupancy tentatively planned for 1 January 2009. Upon enquiring, the Committee was informed that the project was being implemented on schedule.

4. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the report, IAEA, UNIDO, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization and the United Nations Office at Vienna would collectively contribute €2.5 million for the construction of additional conference facilities. The United Nations share of that contribution will be covered by a provision of $117,700 included in the proposed programme budget for the

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biennium 2008-2009 under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance (A/62/6 (Sect. 32)).

5. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General of information on asbestos removal, as recommended by the Committee (A/61/361, para. 5).** The Secretary-General indicates that the overall implementation rate of the asbestos removal was 50 per cent, reflecting the completion of work in relation to four of the six towers (A, B, D and E) of the Vienna International Centre, which contain mostly offices. Asbestos removal work in the towers that accommodate joint and common services (F and G) will commence in late 2007 and continue into 2009. The asbestos removal for the building that houses primarily conference facilities and related services is scheduled to commence during the biennium 2008-2009. Accordingly, the total project plan is expected to be completed by mid-2011.

6. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional conference facilities at the Vienna International Centre (A/62/358).**